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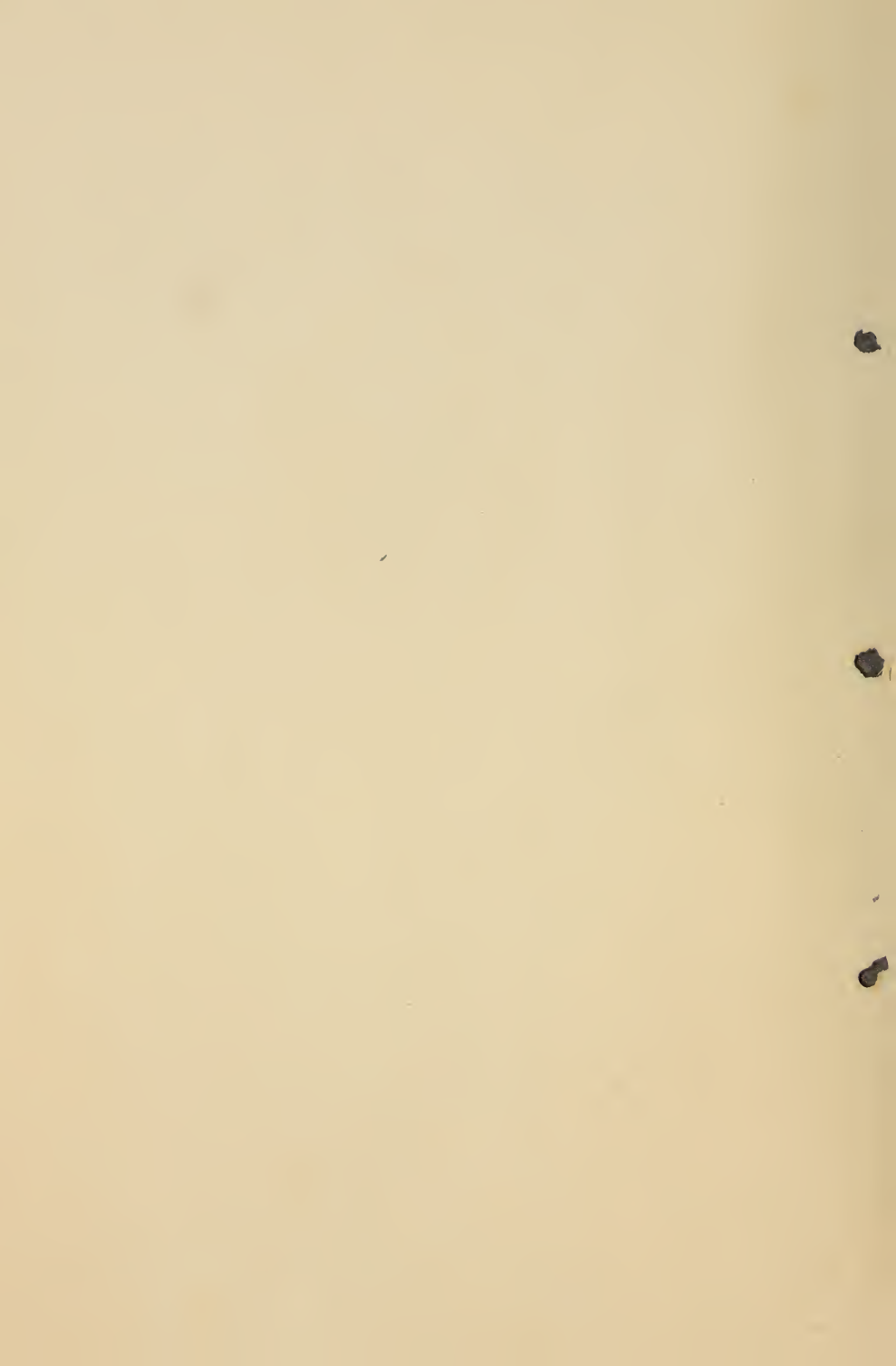


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Austin H. Merrill.





IN MEMORIAM

Austin H. Merrill



OLD OAK CLUB

18

OCTOBER 20, 1900

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ms. B. 1, June 8

The Old Oak Club

216 N VINE ST. OCTOBER 30TH 1900.

Since the founding of the Old Oak Club in November 1887, its roll of members has risen from other causes, but never until now has death invaded our Active membership. With peculiar force we are now reminded that, "Whether the cup with sweet or bitter run,

The Wine of Life keeps oozing drop by drop,

The Leaves of Life keep falling one by one."

From November 1887, this club has enjoyed the companionship of one who has done so much to make the memories dear, that the loving labor of recounting the invisible ties, which bind us to that noble spirit, presses upon us as a necessary act of devotion; necessary because natural and natural because of that, within him, which awoke and evoked our respect and confidence and admiration.

AUSTIN H. MERRILL

Every member of this club recognized the man endowed by nature with the nicest sensitivities, the keenest insight into what constituted true manliness, the most loyal sense of duty, the loftiest ideals, and the kindest regard for friendship. His finer nature, compressed for naturalness, and Art, was only the truest form of expression of those feelings which make the world what it is.

We loved him for his gentleness, we admired him for his courage, we trusted him for his loyalty, we trusted him for his unflinching and now we faint would render to our friend such tribute as we may. Those whom he loved are our concern, and his high ideal of friendship, inspires in us the hope of helpfulness, to those bereft whom he held dear.

The worldly hope men set their hearts upon

Like snow upon the Desert's dusty face

Turns white, or, it prospers, and above,

Lightning a little lower or so, - is gone."

Others of us shall one by one, creep silently to rest, from noon, we cannot know. To him, as surely as to us, these words be comfort in the thought, that as we journey hence, our companions of The Old Oak Club, will cherish what we cherished and work together for good to those we loved.

We desire to convey to Mrs. Merrill this expression of our enduring regard for him we mourn.

We desire to convey to her and those little ones, in whose lives the hope of perpetuating his likeness and his memory, our sympathy; and for his sake we pledge to them now and hereafter our loyal friendship.

We desire that a space in our minute book be devoted as a memorial, and that Mrs. Merrill be furnished with a copy of these expressions, to which shall be attached the autographic signature of each member:

J. K. Kirkland

Marion Wallace

W. S. Keeble

J. M. Gill

J. H. Stevenson

Sam. E. Bassett

B. Kirk Rankin

Allen S. Hall

Robert Nurse-Hodges

Herman Furtie

Robert Jackson

L. H. Hubbard

Edw. Baskett

James Stotters

A. M. Tillman

Samuel R. Campbell

Wm. Abbott Sanders

Walter M. Baker

John L. Lampton

George W. Hale

W. H. Harrison

Wm. L. Dudley

Charles L. Lough

A. B. Wolford

J. C. McKeen

Indrick W. Moore

Alfred E. Howell

AUSTIN H. MERRILL

AUSTIN HEATON MERRILL was born in Maryland, at Newtown (now Pocomoke City), June 1, 1859. His parents, W. H. S. Merrill and Mary W. Hargis, belonged to the oldest and most respected families of the Eastern Shore. His preparatory education was obtained in the Pocomoke High School, which he attended four years, completing the course of study in 1876. One of his teachers, a lifelong friend, Mr. R. A. Wilson, describes him at the age of fifteen years as "an attractive boy, with frank, trustful, and winning manners and that self-possession and assurance which are born of confidence, not especially studious, nor above mediocrity in his standing, yet intensely ambitious."

A literary entertainment was arranged for the closing exercises of the school, and to Mr. Wilson was assigned the task of drilling the speakers. "Having," as he says, "a horror of unnaturalness and the ranting and strutting and posing of modern elocutionary methods, he strove to impress upon Austin the importance of being natural. He had the dramatic instinct and won local distinction and a gold medal." From that time on he gave special attention to the study of elocution, and spent much time and practice in order to break himself of a slow, drawling manner of speaking, which was characteristic of him as a boy.

He completed the course of study at the High School

in the spring of 1876, and in the fall entered Delaware College, Newark, N. J. The death of his father in the following year called him home for a short time and brought him to consider the choice of a profession. Consulting with his mother, he selected the law, and on his return to college he took up the study of Blackstone's Commentaries, still carrying on the regular work for an academic degree. One of the Professors says of him that his mental gifts were good, beyond the average, and supplemented by persevering and faithful industry. His record at college is a confirmation of this, for notwithstanding the extra work he was doing, he made a high grade in all of his studies, was especially successful in oratorical contests, and at the end of the four years graduated with the degree of Master of Arts as valedictorian of his class.

When he came home from college he was unprepared to begin the practice of law, and his means being exhausted, he adopted the usual plan in such cases, he taught school. He became principal of an academy at Temperanceville, a small village in Virginia, on the Eastern Shore. He continued the study of Blackstone's Commentaries whenever his school duties permitted, but not with zeal and contentment, for he often spoke of his unfitness for law. His heart was in elocution, and as soon as the summer vacation was at hand he went to Philadelphia and entered as a student the National School of Elocution and Oratory. There, under the instruction of Professor R. O. Moon, he says he first acquired a high appreciation of interpretation. About this time also he heard Professor Robt. L. Cumnock, and so he went back in the fall to his school at Temperanceville with increas-

ing enthusiasm for the art of expression and a waning interest in the forms and principles of common law.

Near the close of the session he decided to test his ability as an entertainer. The village of Temperanceville was surprised by the announcement that Austin H. Merrill would give an entertainment in readings and recitations on a certain evening. At the appointed hour the little school-room, dimly lighted by lamps brought from the village homes and placed about the room on the desks, was filled to overflowing. Never did the entertainer come before an audience with more trepidation than he did on this occasion. The following programme was rendered:

"The Last Hymn."

"Which shall it be?"

"Red Jacket."

"The Jiners."

"Darius Green and his Flying Machine."

"Uncle Daniel's Apparition."

"Artemus Ward's London Lecture."

"How Ruby Played."

"Socrates Snooks."

The evening was declared a delightful one, and his friends showered congratulations upon him. His sister, who was present on the occasion, says that this success determined his future career.

At the close of the session he resigned the position at Temperanceville and spent the summer in Philadelphia at the National School of Elocution and Oratory, completing the course offered there. "Many students have come and gone since he left us," says Mrs. Shoemaker, "but among them all none was worthier than he nor more

teachable. The result of his study was most satisfactory, and we in these latter years watched his growing success with interest." The following winter, 1882--83, was spent at the University of Michigan, where he gave private instruction to a class in elocution. He also took some lectures in the Michigan Law School, for he had not yet obtained his mother's permission to give up the law as a profession.

When he returned home from Michigan he told his mother of his preference for platform work and his desire to give up the law, for which he said he had no taste nor fitness and in which he could never be successful. His mother, under the impression that elocution savored of the stage, was much opposed to this, but when he explained to her and finally convinced her that his work was entirely different from what she imagined and not of a theatrical character, she gave her consent. Henceforth he had no cloud of irresolution and discontentment hanging over his life.

During the next three years he held a professorship in the Western Maryland College at Westminster, and was also instructor in elocution at the Westminster Theological Seminary.

The summers of '84, '85, and '86 were spent at Martha's Vineyard, the first in attendance upon the summer school of oratory, the second in charge of the school, the third as a student in Dr. Curry's School of Expression, which he also attended the next summer at Saratoga. He came to Vanderbilt University in the fall of 1886 as instructor in elocution. In 1894 he was elected Adjunct Professor of Elocution and Oratory in the University,

which position he held until his death at Tate Springs, August 10, 1900.

Professor Merrill's educational work was two-fold—in the *class-room* and on the *platform*.

His teaching was not confined to students of the University. By special arrangement a portion of his time for several years was given to the Nashville College for Young Ladies. He had many private pupils, and a part of almost every vacation was spent in teaching in some summer school.

He was remarkably successful as a teacher. This is the judgment of the authorities at every institution of learning with which he was at any time connected, and it is attested by the unanimous opinion of his pupils as well as by the observed effects of his teaching. Who ever heard a single one of the hundreds that he has taught bring any complaint against him? while many are the expressions of praise and even of gratitude. His charm of manner and winning personality drew his pupils to him in an unusual degree. They mourn the loss of a friend as well as a teacher. An old pupil writes of him:

"Although Professor Merrill was my teacher, I looked on him more as a friend than as a teacher, for while his instruction has been of great service to me and of lasting influence in my life, yet he had that in him which lifted him above the instructor and made him the friend who takes an interest in our welfare."

Another student says:

"I not only appreciated him as my devoted instructor, but I loved him as a faithful friend; he told me my faults

as few friends ever do, and by his honesty and patience encouraged and helped me."

A third, writing of his influence, says:

"Few men have been so decidedly helpful to me as he was when I was taking my theological course at Vanderbilt. His sympathetic insight, his unfailing good sense and frank advice have entered as permanent factors into my life work."

Another says:

"It is always with pleasure and an inspiration for higher living that I recall my relations with him."

Professor S. H. Clark, of Chicago University, speaking of him as a teacher, says: "He held before his students the highest ideals, and still better, knew and appreciated what is meant by high ideals. He urged on his students at the University to constant and conscientious effort, laying stress continually on honesty of speech and manner, teaching to discriminate between the true and false, and insisting ceaselessly upon the duty of readers to present only such literature as might receive the sanction of people of culture. A large part of the South has through his pupils been affected by his teachings, and the art has lost an exponent everywhere."

The writer is not capable of discussing in a technical way the methods by which Professor Merrill taught his students correct intonation and modulation of voice, natural and graceful gesture, ease and repose of body while speaking; these qualities are characteristic, however, of those who have received from him the most thorough training. Judging from the teacher himself as a model, the principle to which all art and training was made sub-

servient was that of naturalness and simplicity. He had extreme dislike of rant and affectation.

For a number of years students who have spoken on the rostrum at Vanderbilt University have had to appear before Professor Merrill in preparation. They have pronounced him a severe critic, not only of the manner of delivery, but of the matter and style of composition. But the criticisms were given with such sincerity and sympathetic interest, such delicate consideration accompanied with kindly suggestions for improvement, that the student would go away not offended, but thankful; not in despair, but encouraged to persevere.

Teaching was not irksome to him. He had a high appreciation of the value of the work he was doing. He believed that the importance of elocution was generally underestimated, and consequently this part of educational training was frequently entirely neglected or at best imperfectly done. He felt a friendly interest in every worthy student, and there was gratification in the consciousness of having benefited such a one. There was to him a keen pleasure in taking in hand a young man awkward in speech and gesture, incapable of expressing himself acceptably before an audience, and seeing him under his instruction develop into a pleasing and forcible speaker.

Professor Merrill considered his most important work in the University to be that in the Biblical Department. There he had arranged a two years' course in oratory and expression. Of all men, unless perhaps the actor, the preacher is most in need of training in these subjects. How often is the effect of a sermon diminished, the usefulness of the preacher indeed impaired, by a cracked,

hoarse, or rasping voice, a sing-song or monotonous style of reading or speaking, or unpleasing attitudes and gesticulation !

It was Professor Merrill's aim that graduates of the Biblical Department should not be hampered by any such avoidable imperfections, and that they should be capable of expressing without affectation and in the most effective way whatever they had to say as public speakers. Many a preacher without such training, realizing that much of the force of what he had to say was lost in the awkward manner of its presentation, came to him for advice or instruction in methods for remedying the defect.

The last public appearance of Professor Merrill at the University was in the chapel of Wesley Hall before an assemblage of ministers who were attending the Summer Biblical Institute. His talk on the weak and strong ways of reading and speaking, illustrated with examples from hymns and passages of Scripture, was doubtless very suggestive and helpful to some of those present ; and all of them appreciated and will remember the generous offer, which at the close of his remarks, he put into the form of a request that his contribution next year to the Biblical Institute might not be limited to a single evening, but that he might be allowed to give his services as a regular instructor during the whole session.

It is unusual that an elocutionist is notably successful both as a teacher and a reader. This distinction, however, belonged to Professor Merrill ; and for the very reason that he became so well known as a reader, the value of his work as a teacher is apt to be overlooked or underestimated. The personal benefit derived from his teaching by several hundred pupils while he was at the University

is but a small part of the results. A large proportion of these pupils became either public speakers or teachers, and through them the wholesome influence of what he taught has been felt throughout the South and has been multiplied many fold. The erection of the subject of elocution into the chair of elocution and oratory in Vanderbilt University, thus giving it relatively a higher rank in the branches of study than it holds in most other universities, was a merited recognition of the qualifications of the man and the importance of his work.

Professor Merrill's *platform* work was incidental to his regular work as teacher of elocution and oratory in Vanderbilt University. Granted leave of absence annually by the University for two weeks in the winter, he visited professionally nearly all of the principal cities of the South and some of those of the North. He gave readings at many of the leading Universities, among which may be mentioned, Columbia, Chicago, Wisconsin, Michigan, Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, and Texas; and he appeared on the principal Chautauqua platforms.

He was successful everywhere. Criticism of his readings was almost universally favorable. To give an idea of the impression he usually made upon educated and refined people, a few extracts from what they have written for the press and in personal letters may be introduced here:

Moses Coit Tyler, LL.D., Professor of History in Cornell University, says:

"The first thing which arrested my attention in Professor Merrill's readings was their note of sincerity. Along

with this, as I soon perceived, went refinement of method, a delicate, artistic forethought, humor, a shrewd insight into character, and naturalness, qualities which, taken together, imply the absence of all elocutionary mouthing or stage vehemence."

Bishop John H. Vincent, Chancellor of Chautauqua University, says:

"To be pronounced a success at Chautauqua is accounted an honor indeed. Mr. Merrill is regarded as a very great success in his chosen line. His work in the class room and the display of his versatile talents on the platform, his refined taste, and his superior elocution render him a delightful entertainer, and an inspiring and stimulating teacher."

Professor H. H. Boyesen, of Columbia University, writes in a personal letter:

"Your powers as a personator of the most varied characters seem to me extraordinary, and you show, moreover, fine dramatic feeling and exquisite taste in avoiding that most dangerous pitfall of public readers — rant. Your 'Old Man Rogers,' in 'Esmerelda,' is, in my opinion, your masterpiece, and I have rarely seen a finer bit of dramatic characterization."

What these scholars in universities of the North say in praise of his sincerity, refinement, humor, naturalness, power of impersonation, and superior elocution, is no more than has been said by professors in nearly every university of the South; and we who knew him well and heard him often can without hesitation endorse it all.

A commanding figure is of great value to a public speaker, but not essential to success. Professor Merrill did not possess this natural advantage. The first impres-

sion received by many who heard him for the first time was doubtless one of surprise, even disappointment, when one of whom so much was expected came before them a man of less than ordinary stature, but the disappointment quickly passed away; his expression of cordiality and sincerity, the mellow tones of his voice, the grace and simplicity of his manner, the intelligent and artistic rendering of whatever he undertook, soon awakened interest and good will, often admiration and enthusiasm.

He never failed to interest young people. Such incidents as the following one were not rare. Last spring while in Louisville under treatment for his health, one of his old pupils, a teacher in a large school of that city, met him one day and took him up to the school house. Though scarcely able to stand, he gave at the request of his friend a short talk and several recitations. The teacher afterwards said that many distinguished men had spoken before that school by invitation, but none had ever aroused such enthusiasm or made such an impression upon the pupils as Professor Merrill.

He was scarcely less popular with the old than with the young. The late venerable Chancellor of Vanderbilt University, Dr. Garland, was very fond of hearing him. No other elocutionist seemed to satisfy him. On being asked, just after he had heard a reading by one of the most famous of elocutionists, how he liked it, he replied very emphatically, "Why, I would a great deal rather hear our Merrill."

He never attempted the reproduction of any selection until he had given it thorough study, and knew it perfectly. Once memorized, it was never forgotten, or at least with a rapid sketching could be easily recalled. In

the rare instances in which the lines slipped his memory, without embarrassment to himself or the audience, with, perhaps, an illustrative anecdote, another piece was substituted. His perfect ease and self-possession upon the stage quickly won the confidence of the audience, and there was not the slightest uneasiness lest he might forget, nor apprehension lest he might introduce something inharmonious to detract from the enjoyment of his recitals.

Selections for his programmes were made with careful discrimination. He was never known to give a reading or recitation inappropriate to the occasion or offending good taste; nor could he be tempted by applause to prolong the entertainment to the point of weariness. In his miscellaneous programmes he interspersed with the grave and didactic many pieces in light and humorous vein, but he attached no undue importance to the latter, however attractive they might seem to be to the audience. It was his custom to choose for the closing number a selection that would leave with the hearers a serious thought, would appeal to their higher and better nature, and give them something helpful to carry away.

Professor Merrill relied less upon the realism of the actor, even in his varied impersonations, than perhaps any other noted elocutionist. The effects which many others produced by means of striking attitudes and facial contortions were produced by him more delicately and artistically through suggestion. Thus one's attention was never drawn from the subject to the acting of the impersonator. The praying did not kneel, the sorrowful did not weep, the suffering did not writhe, the dying did not gasp, yet by consummate art in suggestion, what he

wished was present in the imagination of those before him.

To an interviewer who asked whether he ever used costume in his representations, he replied that he would as soon black his face as wear a costume on the platform; that if he could not give a literary character to his platform work he would not give spectacular work.

He was not a specialist in his subject. His repertory was extensive. He said of one of his professional friends, "He is unequalled in Shakespearian roles;" and of another, "His impersonations are unsurpassed;" yet I doubt not, both of these would have yielded him the palm in several kinds of interpretation. He rarely chose anything strongly dramatic, or requiring sustained, rapid, intense, impassioned action and utterance. His preference was for scenes and incidents appealing to the gentler emotions of sympathy and gratitude; and it was, indeed, in character sketches, humorous and pathetic, illustrating what is kind, true, generous, noble in human nature that he reached the highest excellence. Exquisitely pleasing, too, was his rendition of such bits of child-like simplicity as Riley's "The Goblins will Get You," and Field's "Seeing Things at Night."

Elocutionists find a fruitful field in the literature of dialect. Some of them confine themselves to the Scotch, German, Irish, and other dialects which have enriched English literature even of the classical period; others have taken up the forms peculiarly American—the Creole, Cracker, Hoosier, pioneer, and Negro dialects introduced by Cable, Johnson, Riley, Harte, Harris, and others.

Professor Merrill was partial to scenes of life in the South as described by Southern authors. It is doubtful

whether any other elocutionist was so successful in the portrayal of the old-time Southern Negro. His rendition of character sketches from the works of a number of these Southern writers met with the unqualified approval of the authors themselves; and so charmingly did he reproduce in different parts of the country before thousands of people stories and adaptations from the pens of Thomas Nelson Page and James Lane Allen that these authors might have said to him as Joel Chandler Harris said to A. B. Frost, the illustrator of his "Uncle Remus," "They were mine, but you have made them your own."

A leading teacher of elocution says: "In his fine appreciation and fine interpretation of Thomas Nelson Page's 'Unc' Edinburg's Droundin,' and other stories of our best Southern authors, he was without a rival."

Theodore H. Tyndale, of Boston, writes: "If Thomas Nelson Page had written and you had read these stories before the war, there wouldn't have been a war."

The author of "Two Gentlemen of Kentucky," after listening with absorbing interest to the reading of this story by Professor Merrill, grasped his hand warmly and said, "I did not know *that* was in it."

The progressiveness of Professor Merrill and the steady growth of his influence and usefulness make his loss at so early an age the more deplorable. Although when he came to Vanderbilt University fourteen years ago, his simplicity, naturalness, and attractive personality won him instant favor wherever he appeared, he had not yet gone much out of the limit of simple reading and recitation. His more elaborate work, such as "The Sleeping Car," "Esmeralda," "Scenes from Rip Van Winkle," "Unc' Edinburg's Droundin'," "A Midsummer Night's

Dream," were developed after that time. Then he was known only in a few localities; but at the time of his death his reputation was national both as a teacher and an entertainer. He was a Director in the National Association of Elocutionists and a member of one of its most important committees. He was the most noted elocutionist in the South, and was considered generally one of the foremost rank in the United States. A distinguished member of his profession says of him: "He was easily the most artistic reader in the South, and in his particular sphere had no superior anywhere."

Professor Merrill had a ready command of good English, and wrote in an easy, entertaining style. He was the editor and compiler of No. 21 of "Shoemaker's Best Selections"—series of works on Elocution. He was one of the advisory council for the publication of "The World's Best Orations," and the "World's Best Essays;" and was a contributor to "Masterpieces of Oratory," the first six volumes of which have just been issued. The last literary work which he did was the writing of the special introduction to "Demosthenes' Orations," appearing in the last mentioned series.

His time and taste did not permit reading along broad lines. His library does not contain many books on philosophic or scientific subjects. The standard novels and essays and our best poetry, together with the literature of the day, constituted his chief reading. He delighted in humorous sketches, a spicy, well-written article, or a delicate bit of verse.

Few men had a greater number of warm friends than Professor Merrill. In a general way this may be said to

have been due to the fact that along with the sterling traits of character of true manhood, he had also many of the gentler ones of a woman, and there was no defect or unpleasant feature in his character to repel or alienate a friend once acquired. He had a sunny, cheerful disposition, manifesting itself sometimes in a playfulness and boyishness which endeared him especially to the young.

His nature was confiding and generous. In some instances his confidence was misplaced and his generosity was exercised to his own hurt; but generally the innate goodness of human nature was touched and responded. Apparently without the slightest jealousy he used his influence to bring before audiences in Nashville and elsewhere in the South the best elocutionary talent of the North.

Place-seeking and envy were so foreign to his nature, sincerity and generosity so apparent in his disposition, that those who were his rivals were also among the warmest of his friends. The sentiments expressed in the following quotations from several of the best known elocutionists writing of him are indicative of this:

"His generosity was one of the secrets of his greatness, and the chief reason why he was so generally beloved."

"He was a noble Christian gentleman and he has had a close grip upon my heart from the very first time I met him seventeen years ago."

"He was full of loving tenderness and loyal fidelity to all, with as tender and sensitive a heart as ever beat in a human breast, with a kind appreciation of that which is delicate and beautiful and noble in the subtle forms of human expression."

"To me he was among the first of the inner circle of my

friends, towards whom it was impossible to feel merely the interest of acquaintanceship."

"His tenderness and kindness of spirit, his frankness and geniality, his courtliness and amiability, made him in every sense of the word a man—aye, a gentleman he was, and to know him as I did was to make one feel more hopeful, trustful, and optimistic."

Such was his character as it appeared to those engaged in his own special work; and so it seemed to all, indeed, who knew him well.

He was charitable both in will and deed; not harsh in his judgment of the faults of others; forgiving; kind, and generous to the poor and afflicted. The inmates of the Old Woman's Home write: "He always attended our annual receptions, no matter how busy he was, reciting for us the pieces most calculated to amuse and cheer us, and greeting us with such kindly words that we felt his presence a benediction."

A notable trait in his character was his modesty; not in the sense, however, of timidity or diffidence. He knew perfectly well what he was capable of doing, and when the demand upon him was not beyond his own estimate he did not shrink from meeting it or make any pretense of unworthiness or incapacity, but accepted the responsibility and fulfilled it to the best of his ability. But he was modest in that he did not overestimate himself, was unassuming, did not put himself forward in prominent positions before the public easily within his reach and that his qualifications might have entitled him to expect. His modesty is also exemplified in the character of the selections which he made from personal letters and public notices for advertising his platform work. With good taste

and judgment, discarding those most highly eulogistic, he made use only of such as were free from extravagance and emphasized the points of excellence which he had striven for and which were his in the opinion of competent and fair critics. While of course he enjoyed in high degree the great successes of his public life, he never exulted in them. Appearing before audiences of the highest culture and refinement, he received the most flattering acclamations of applause, and men and women of the highest distinction came forward and warmly congratulated him; yet all this awakened not a particle of vanity; he did not boast of it, he did not cherish it with pride, he scarcely mentioned it to his friends.

He was a man of the finest sensibilities, possessing great delicacy of feeling, yet not morbidly sensitive. He took no offense at trifles nor harbored any malice. He was at enmity with none, and had the good will of all who knew him. Observant of the proprieties of cultivated society, he had, too, that true politeness which is solicitous for the comfort and happiness of others and guards against the wounding of the feelings of persons in any station of life by an unkind, inconsiderate, or thoughtless word or act. Seeing him conversing pleasantly with persons whom he was known to dislike, one might have believed him too complaisant, suspected almost a lack of frankness; but he was indeed perfectly frank and sincere. While courteous to all, indisposed by any rudeness to arouse needless animosity, he would have been far from allowing his affability to be construed into endorsement of an unworthy person.

The lover of good literature will generally be found to have a taste for what is beautiful, refined, and artistic in

other forms. So it was with Professor Merrill. Had one who knew him well been seeking him in a city, not finding him at the hotel, he would have looked for him in the book stores, the art shops, the picture gallery, or the concert hall. He rarely returned home from a lecture tour without bringing with him some literary or artistic souvenir. Nothing delighted him more than with such a treasure to bring to those he loved a sweet surprise. He had the soul of an artist who takes delight in the beautiful, whether it lies before him in the panorama of nature, or spread upon canvas, or chiseled in marble. A beautiful face, a noble thought, a delicate feeling, all appealed to his exquisite nature.

Professor Merrill sought companionship and friendship, and he proved a delightful companion and a true friend. In social life he was one of the most agreeable of men, cheery, unreserved, pleasing in manners, entertaining in conversation, a charming host, or a welcome guest. Nor did he reserve his elocutionary attainments for professional use only; but frequently contributed greatly by readings or recitations to the enjoyment of social entertainments and of informal gatherings at the homes of friends.

As in the social, so in the home circle, the amenities of life were not forgotten. Every worthy or considerate act met with an appreciative and outspoken recognition, which was a source of delight to those he loved.

He was happily married in 1892 to Miss Pearl Daniel, of Harrisonville, Missouri. Perfect congeniality in tastes, temperament, and character made their home life almost ideal. The good influences of that home will ever

be remembered and cherished, especially by the many students who shared its hospitality.

Professor Merrill's connection with the Old Oak Club dates from the fall of 1889. He was honored with every office in the gift of the Club. Probably no other member was so generally beloved. He was a valuable member, and I know that he prized his membership highly.

His associations with the University were interwoven in his being. They were a part of him. Attractive offers frequently received from other places were no temptation to him. He merely mentioned them with a smile and put them aside. He had not the slightest intention of ever leaving the University. He was taken from it in almost the only way. The loss sustained by Vanderbilt University in the death of Professor Merrill is irreparable. Possibly some one may come who will bring as much honor to the University on the public platform, some one who will do his work in the class room, or some one who will win the universal love of his colleagues and his students, but not one who will combine as he did all these. No one can fill his place.

He lived a simple Christian life. To dogmas and creeds beyond the essentials of Christianity, he attached little importance. The reality of his religion was seen in the practice of its precepts in the every-day affairs of life. In every sense a gentleman, he passed away "wearing the white flower of a blameless life."

ITINERARY

1884.

Elocutionist for the Delaware State Teachers' Association in Au-

1885.

In summer, had charge of the Department of Elocution at Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute. In April, read at Concert Hall, Conservatory of Music, Baltimore, Md.

Read at Ann Arbor, Mich.

Westminster, Md.

New York, N. Y.

Smyrna, Del.

Syracuse, N. Y.

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie.

Salisbury, Md.

Pocomoke City, Md.

Onancock, Va.

Princess Anne, Md.

Snow Hill, Md.

Georgetown, Del.

1886.

In summer at Dr. Curry's School of Expression, Martha's Vineyard. Came to Vanderbilt University in September.

1887.

In summer at Dr. Curry's School of Expression, Saratoga, N. Y.

1888.

In charge of elocution at Mont-eagle Summer School.

1889.

In charge of elocution at Mont-eagle Summer School.

1890.

In Pensacola, Fla., in January.

Monteagle Summer School.

Read Scene I. from Rip Van Winkle for first time at Dr. Price's College, in September.

Two readings in Knoxville in December.

1891.

Readings:

Lexington, Mo. (2 readings).

Clinton, Mo.

Sedalia, Mo.

Kansas City, Mo.

St. Louis, Mo.

Knoxville, Tenn.

Greenville, Texas.

Little Rock Ark.

Chattanooga, Tenn.

Atlanta, Ga.

Memphis, Tenn.

Union City, Tenn.

Russellville, Ky.

Seaford, Del.

Points in North and South Carolina.

Dr. Price's College, Nashville, Tenn.

A Midsummer Night's Dream, in Nashville, December 1 (with music).

Read at Chautauqua at Georgetown, Texas, and at Chautauqua, Lexington, Ky.

In charge of Elocution in Mont-eagle Summer School.

This year he added "Unc' Edin-burg's Droundin'" to his repertoire.

1892.

Attended the National Association of Elocutionists (in New York). Had charge of Elocution at Chautauqua, N. Y., in the summer. Gave readings at Franklin, Columbia, and other towns in Tennessee.

1893.

Readings:

Helena, Ark.

Searcy, Ark.

Batesville, Ark. (2 readings).

Little Rock, Ark.

Jefferson, Texas.

Albany, Ga.

Missouri Chautauqua, Sedalia.

Atlanta Chautauqua Assembly.

Attended meeting of the National Association of Elocutionists at Chicago, gave reading and read a paper. Was Vice-President of the Association, and presided several times.

1894.

Readings:

University of Nashville.
Union Springs, Ala.
Tuskegee, Ala.
Florence, Ala.
Albany, Ga.
Knob Noster, Mo.
Warrensburg, Mo.
Lexington, Mo.
Searcy, Ark.
Arkadelphia, Ark.
Conway, Ark.
Pine Bluff, Ark.
Batesville, Ark.
Helena, Ark.
McKenzie, Tenn.
Clarksville, Tenn.
Boscobel College, Nashville.

Taught at Dr. Price's College, also at Clarksville, Tenn.

Attended National Association of Elocutionists at Philadelphia.

1895.

Readings:

Gatesville, Texas.
Waco, Texas.
Marlin, Texas.
Tehuacanna, Texas.
Gainesville, Texas.
Denton, Texas.
Ft. Smith, Ark.
Fordyce, Ark.
Greenville, Miss.
Brookhaven, Miss.
Danville, Ill.
University of Chicago.
Clarksville, Tenn.
Petersburg, Tenn.
Nicholasville, Ky.
Baltimore, Md.
Westminster, Md.
Boston Art Club, Boston.

In the summer, gave two readings at Monteagle; read at Madison, Wis., and at Chautauqua, N. Y.

Two readings at Talladega, Ala., at Pocomoke, Md., and at Harrisonville, Mo.

1896.

Readings:

Crystal Springs, Miss.
Meridian, Miss.
Oxford, Miss. (Univ. of Miss.)
Pontotoc, Miss.
West Point, Miss.
Greenville, Miss.
Columbus, Miss.
Jackson, Miss.
Spring Hill, Tenn.
Carthage, Tenn.
Talladega, Ala.
Columbus, S. C.

At several places in Georgia.

Attended National Association of Elocutionists at Detroit, Mich., and read there to the Association.

1897.

Readings:

Cincinnati, Ohio.
Baltimore, Md.
Lynchburg, Va.
Richmond, Va.
Clarksville, Tenn.
Martin, Tenn.

Read "Midsummer Night's Dream" at Woman's Building, Tennessee Centennial Exposition.

In summer, assisted Dr. Curry at Monteagle; had charge of Elocution at Bay View, Mich.; read at Macinac Island.

1898.

Readings:

Knoxville, Tenn.
Chapel Hill, N. C.
Lynchburg, Va.
Blackstone, Va.
Charlottesville, Va.
Norfolk, Va.
Columbia, S. C.
Durham, S. C.
Lexington, Ky.
Sweetwater, Tenn.
Nashville Lyceum.
Wednesday Morning Musicales.
Rogersville, Tenn.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Winchester, Tenn.
Louisville, Ky. (Hampton College).

Brooklyn Institute of Sciences
and Art.

In summer, attended N. A. E.,
at Cincinnati. Taught at Bay View,
Mich.; read at Harbor Point, Mich.;
taught at Monteagle, with Dr. Curry.
Later in the summer, had charge of
School of Elocution at Missouri
Chautauqua, Maysville, Ky.

1899.

Readings:

Bowling Green, Ky.
Lexington, Ky.
New Orleans (3 readings).
Galveston, Texas.
San Antonio, Texas.
Houston, Texas.
Austin, Texas.
Sherman, Texas.
Dallas, Texas.
Fort Worth, Texas.
Cleburne, Texas.
Marshall, Texas.
Corsicana, Texas.
Monroe, La.
Arcadia, La.
Mount Pleasant, Tenn.
University of Nashville.
For Vanderbilt Woman's Club,
complimentary to stu-
dents and faculty.

In summer, at Monteagle, with

Mrs. Curry, and had charge of Elo-
cution at Bay View, Mich.

1900.

Readings:

Fayetteville, Ky.
Bowling Green, Ky.
Millersburg, Ky.
Richmond, Ky.
Lexington, Ky.
Flemingsburg, Ky.
Louisville, Ky.
Ripley, Tenn.
Trenton, Tenn.
McKenzie, Tenn.
Tuscaloosa, Ala. (4 readings).
Lewisburg, Tenn.
Gallatin, Tenn.
Nashville, Tenn.
Columbia, S. C.
Spartanburg, S. C.
Atlanta, Ga.
Belmont College.
Philharmonic Society, of Nash-
ville.
Nangatuck, Conn.
Philadelphia, Pa.
New York, N. Y.
Springfield, Mass.
Northampton, Mass. (Smith
College).
Washington, D. C.
Utica, N. Y.
Pocomoke, Md.

In summer, at Monteagle, in
charge of School of Oratory and Ex-
pression.



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